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# Pre-Tet Buildup Described

## *Ho Trail Was a Freeway, Colonel Says*

United Press International

NEW YORK, Nov. 6—American intelligence knew on the eve of the 1968 Tet offensive that the enemy was taking the "unprecedented" step of moving six regiments into South Vietnam, a former intelligence officer testified today at Gen. William Westmoreland's \$120 million libel trial.

Some of the infiltrating troops went down the Ho Chi Minh Trail, turning the jungle trail into a freeway with rest stops, said Col. John Stewart, an intelligence specialist during the Vietnam war who became the top U.S. intelligence officer during the 1983 Grenada invasion.

Testifying for a second day, Stewart told of his assignment as an intelligence analyst for II Corps, the military region of South Vietnam covering the Central Highlands and the Tuy Hoa Valley along the central coast.

Westmoreland, commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968, claims that the CBS doc-

umentary, "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception," was wrong when it reported that he played down the enemy numbers to persuade President Lyndon B. Johnson to commit more troops to the war.

Stewart said he frequently briefed Westmoreland, who conducted "very businesslike briefings and asked terse, tough questions."

"In late- to mid-December we [analysts] came to the conclusion that the North Vietnamese were taking an unprecedented step of sending large numbers of troops south, at least four regiments," said Stewart. "Then, into January, the North Vietnamese moved more, up to six regiments."

"After Tet [Jan. 30, 1968] we could confirm seven to eight regiments that had come into country," he said.

"I opined that the indicators we had were that the Ho Chi Minh Trail was not just a trail but a roadway with rest stops, like along a freeway," Stewart said. "The rest stops had logistics, medical supplies and personnel."